

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the subsequent re-recording and retaining includes re-recording the reproduced information as a hologram in the same position on the optical recording medium as the predetermined position from which the information was reproduced.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein the subsequent re-recording and retaining includes recording position information representing a position in which information has been recorded.

5. (Previously Presented) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein when re-recording the reproduced information as a hologram in the same position on the optical recording medium as the predetermined position from which the information was reproduced, the reproduced information is re-recorded and retained so as to cause an intensity of a reconstructed beam to have a value that can be detected.

6. (Currently Amended) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein the reconstructed beam diffracted from the hologram when reproducing the information has a first polarization state, and further comprising, when subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced information as a hologram in the same position on the optical recording medium as the predetermined position from which the information was reproduced, the reproduced information is re-recorded and retained with a polarization state, changing a polarization state of a recording beam to a second polarization state, so that a the first polarization state of a reconstructed beam obtained from the re-recorded hologram is

different from ~~a~~ the second polarization state of a reconstructed beam obtained from the hologram ~~preceding~~ following the re-recording.

7. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein the optical recording medium comprises a photorefractive material, a photochromic material or a polarization sensitive material.

8. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein the optical recording medium comprises polyester having an azobenzene frame in its side chain.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the subsequent re-recording and retaining includes re-recording and retaining the reproduced information as a hologram in a position on the optical recording medium different from the predetermined position from which the information was reproduced.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein the subsequent reproducing and retaining includes recording position information representing a position in which information has been recorded.

13. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein the optical recording medium comprises a photorefractive material, a photochromic material or a polarization sensitive material.

14. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein the optical recording medium comprises polyester having an azobenzene frame in its side chain.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

dividing information of a file unit in a signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in an optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block;

reproducing the information of the file unit; and
subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced file so as to re-divide the reproduced file into a smaller number of blocks.

16. (Withdrawn) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, comprising the steps of:

applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while changing an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam, and thereby changing a recording angle; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

17. (Withdrawn) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, comprising the steps of:

making an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam constant, applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while relatively moving at least one of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the optical recording medium, and thereby changing a recording position; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

18. (Withdrawn) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, comprising the steps of:

making an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam constant, applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while changing a wavelength of the reference beam and the signal beam; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

19. (Withdrawn) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, comprising the steps of:

making an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam constant, applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while changing a phase of the reference beam; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

20. (Withdrawn) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, wherein when re-recording a reproduced file, position information representing a position in which the file has been re-recorded is also recorded.

21. (Currently Amended) A hologram retention method comprising the steps of:
reproducing information recorded as a hologram in a predetermined position of an optical recording medium by irradiating a beam onto the hologram; and
receiving a reconstructed beam diffracted from the hologram;
determining whether an intensity of the reconstructed beam has decreased to a
predetermined value or less; and

subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced information in the optical recording medium, without changing the reproduced information, when ~~an~~ the intensity of a the reconstructed beam has decreased to ~~a~~ the predetermined value or less.

22. (Currently Amended) A hologram retention method comprising the steps of:

reproducing information recorded as a hologram in a predetermined position of an optical recording medium; and

determining whether the number of times of reproduction of the information from the predetermined position has exceeded a predetermined value; and

subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced information in the optical recording medium, without changing the reproduced information, when the number of times of reproduction has exceeded ~~a~~ the predetermined value.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the subsequent re-recording and retaining includes re-recording the reproduced information as a hologram in the same position on the optical recording medium as the predetermined position from which the information was reproduced.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the subsequent re-recording and retaining includes re-recording and retaining the reproduced information as a hologram in a position on the optical recording medium different from the predetermined position from which the information was reproduced.